

## Forces

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# Well Fed

Shannon Lee Williams

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## Well Fed

Shannon Lee Williams

That's perma-grin you spy  
Across my face as Robert  
Sings to me in quatrains  
From the constant snow in my lap,  
in my Subaru

Diverted by a vacuum of mechanical  
Disharmony and SLAM!  
Are those men's shoes she clomps in  
Across the verdant blades  
Cranberry polka dots hanging like wet laundry

Her broad shoulders pull tots in haste  
Like splashing buckets of water from the well  
Their Lily legs skitter beside heels  
With smudged cheeks and frenetic limbs

Examining the mismatched clothes too  
Small for the April chill  
The essence of the spectacle pulls me in  
Leaving Mr. Frost on his horse  
Holding the placidity of my escape

At the edge of water her fists tear  
Day old hot dog buns  
In rapid and careless succession  
She hurls them at the mallards, swans  
Like slop for the pigs

Matted blonde strands jump  
Anticipating with tummy growls and giggles  
But no beaks grasp at the excess,  
The ducks recede toward the rising moon  
And I, I have miles to go before I sleep.

## Slope of Monjou

Hugh Bramlett

Today came leaning  
from the east;  
climbing through pines  
a haven for birds  
of many different feathers.

One squats, weights the air  
with haughty rasps,  
the swallows flit  
and finches sweep about  
as bees in nursery, greeting.

A teasing breeze  
as in nighttime,  
bustles the bronzed oaks  
to wave good-bye  
in a ruffle, to a hush.

## October

Nick McLean

There's a time when the warmth of the land ceases  
To come from the sun  
and instead rises up from within the Earth  
carrying with it the new season  
setting afire all the tree's leaves  
giving a strange new glow to the sky  
before retiring to the ground.

It chases blackbirds from the fence  
as it bounds upon its paws, a cat.  
It plays around the garden path.  
Purring,  
It rubs its furry black cheeks on my outstretched hand  
Looking at me with eyes of yellow.

It is something strange, all a mystery,  
This month creeping in with the moon;  
In the middle of the night it enters my room  
Arriving late but excited to see me.